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PTO/SB/21 (02-04)
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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/726,767
	Filing Date	December 3, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Margaret M. Nixon
	Art Unit	3731
	Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	46	Attorney Docket Number AQMED.0103

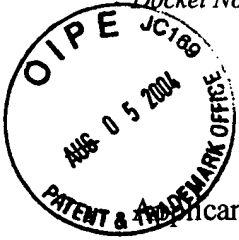
ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	David W. Carstens
Signature	
Date	August 2, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Typed or printed name	Kathleen A. Tolnay
Signature	
Date	August 2, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Margaret M. Nixon
 Serial No.: 10/726,767
 Filing Date: December 3, 2003
 Title: Surgical Tape Tensioner
 Art Unit: 3731
 Attorney Docket No.: AQMED.0103

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

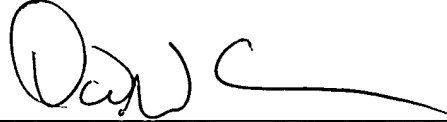
Applicant requests that the information listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the Undersigned to be material under the new standards of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may be material under the old standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a), last amended on November 28, 1988, or may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

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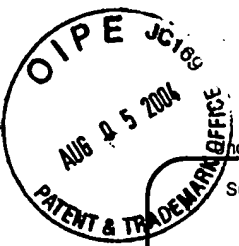
Date: July 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Carstens", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Carstens
Reg. No. 34,134

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/726,767
Filing Date	December 3, 2003
First Named Inventor	Margaret M. Nixon
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	AQMED.0103

Sheet 1 of 1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	US- 5,859,019	01-12-1999	Liang et al.	
	A2	US- 4,710,166	12-01-1987	Thompson et al.	
	A3	US- 4,623,343	11-18-1986	Thompson	
	A4	US- 4,140,125	02-20-1979	Smith	
	A5	US- 3,910,280	10-07-1975	Talonn	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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